

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

--1. (currently amended) A coupler for joining a pipe having an inner diameter and an outer diameter to an opening larger than the inner diameter of the pipe, the coupler being open ended and defining a passageway therebetween having a straight section and an angled section, the straight section having a uniform inner diameter concentric about a centerline and sized to receive the outer diameter of the pipe, the angled section having a wide end and a narrow end with an inner diameter ~~greater than the inner diameter of the pipe~~ and less than that of the wide end and the straight section, wherein the angled section has an upper portion above the centerline that at least in part increases in radius from the narrow end to the wide end and a lower portion to a side of the centerline opposite the upper portion having a constant radius at least along a line extending between the narrow and wide ends at a six o'clock position with respect to the open end of the angled section, wherein the angled section wide end includes an alignment feature for fixing the rotational position of the coupler about the centerline, the alignment feature including a tab projecting from the angled section essentially parallel to the centerline and having an axial slot sized to receive a nib fixed with respect to the opening.

2. (original) The coupler of claim 1, wherein the angled section narrow end is of a lesser inner diameter than the inner diameter of the pipe.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The coupler of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the alignment feature is at the upper portion of the angled section.

5-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The coupler of claim 1, wherein the angled section wide end defines a circular face groove.

8. (currently amended) ~~The coupler of claim 7, further including~~ A coupler for joining a pipe having an inner diameter and an outer diameter to an opening larger than the inner diameter of the pipe, the coupler being open ended and defining a passageway therebetween having a straight section and an angled section, the straight section having a uniform inner diameter concentric about a centerline and sized to receive the outer diameter of the pipe, the angled section having a wide end and a narrow end with an inner diameter less than that of the wide end and the straight section, wherein the angled section has an upper portion above the centerline that at least in part increases in radius from the narrow end to the wide end and a lower portion to a side of the centerline opposite the upper portion having a constant radius at least along a line extending between the narrow and wide ends at a six o'clock position with respect to the open end of the angled section, wherein the angled section wide end defines a circular face groove having an o-ring disposed in the face groove.

9. (original) The coupler of claim 8, wherein the opening is in an input flange of a pump.

10. (original) The coupler of claim 9, wherein the input flange includes an external thread section receiving a threaded collar engaging a peripheral flange at the wide end of the angled section.--